

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01872 021014Z

11
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /072 W
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P R 020756Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1692
USUN NEW YORK 251
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1872

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, BU, RQ
SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A) STATE 212814; B) SOFIA 2044 (1975); C) STATE 213909

1. SUMMARY: DEMARCHE IN SOFIA ON PUERTO RICO ISSUE WAS
FOCUSSED ON ZHIVKOV STATEMENT TO INGERSOLL SEPT 18, 1975
IMPLYING THAT BULGARIANS WOULD PREFER TO ABSTAIN "IF THEY
COULD." AMBASSADOR SAID THERE MIGHT BE PROCEDURAL WAYS IN
WHICH GOB COULD AVOID PLACING A HEAVY LIABILITY ON ITS RELA-
TIONS WITH US. CHIEF OF FOURTH DEPARTMENT PROMISED TO DIS-
CUSS WITH HIS SUPERIORS AND LET US KNOW. END SUMMARY.

2. CALLED SEPT 1 ON AMB PERVEN CHERNEV, CHIEF OF MFA FOURTH
DEPT WHICH HANDLES WESTERN EUROPE, US AND CANADA. EXPLAINED
THAT I WAS SEEING HIM AND NOT HIS COLLEAGUE DEALING WITH UN
MATTERS BECAUSE THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE VIEWED PRIMARILY
IN CONTEXT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THEN REVIEWED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 01872 021014Z

WITH HIM IN DETAIL THE HISTORY OF PR ISSUE LAST YEAR,

HOW BULGARIAN VOTE HAD HAD IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES AND HAD ALMOST LED TO CANCELLATION OF THE INGERSOLL VISIT, HOW INGERSOLL HAD EXPLAINED OUR VIEWS TO SOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, AND WHAT PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV HAD THEN SAID TO INGERSOLL.

3. FOCUSING ON ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENT ("WE WILL GIVE THEM INSTRUCTIONS THAT WHENEVER THEY CANNOT ABSTAIN THEY SHOULD AT LEAST KEEP QUIET", CF. REF B) I SAID THIS HAD BEEN INTERPRETED IN WASHINGTON AS (A) RESULT OF A POLICY DECISION, SINCE ZHIVKOV HAD HIMSELF RAISED MATTER WITH INGERSOLL, PRESUMABLY AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MLADENOV; AND (B) MEANING THAT ABSTENTION WOULD BE THE PREFERRED COURSE, BUT IF IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE BULGARIA WOULD FIND WAYS OF STAYING OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT. FOR THIS THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES.

4. BEFORE STATING AGAIN THAT WE WOULD REGARD A RESOLUTION ON PR AS FLAGRANT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, I GAVE CHERNEY A FIVE-MINUTE SUMMARY OF PUERTO RICAN HISTORY, CONCLUDING THAT THE PUERTO RICANS ARE FIERCELY PROUD AND PATRIOTIC PEOPLE AND THAT THEY WOULD RESENT THE RESOLUTION AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR RPT THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IN ADDITION TO WHICH THE US WOULD "DEEPLY RESENT" ANY ATTEMPT TO PLACE IT ON A LEVEL WITH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. HOW WOULD THE BULGARIANS FEEL IF AN ATTEMPT WERE MADE IN THE UN TO PROMOTE A RESOLUTION DEALING WITH ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND TRYING TO BRAND THEM AS COLONIALISTS? (COMMENT: BELIEVE THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD AS VEILED REFERENCE TO MACEDONIAN ISSUE AND YUGOSLAV PROPAGANDA OF BULGARIAN "OPPRESSION" OF A MINORITY.)

5. FORTUNATELY, I SAID, THERE MIGHT WELL BE PROCEDURAL MOVES TO DEFER THE ISSUE. LAST YEAR BULGARIA HAD VOTED AGAINST POSTPONEMENT, BUT I HAD IMPRESSION THAT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ANDON TRAYKOV TO WHOM I HAD ADDRESSED MY DEMARCHE (AND WHO HAS MEANWHILE BEEN FIRED) "MAY NOT HAVE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER." THERE WOULD NO DOUBT BE WAYS IN WHICH BULGARIA COULD AVOID

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SOFIA 01872 021014Z

PLACING A HEAVY LIABILITY ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US. THIS WAS FOR THEM TO DETERMINE. THERE WAS STILL TIME AS VOTING WILL BE ONLY NEXT WEEK. IN ANY EVENT I TRUSTED CHERNEV WOULD CONVEY MY REMARKS TO HIS SUPERIORS.

6. CHERNEV SAID, FIRST, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SEPT 1 BEING HIS FIRST DAY ON DUTY SINCE RETURNING FROM LEAVE. HE THEN SAID HE HAD RE-

SEARCHED THE RECORD AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM JULY 29
(WHEN I HAD A GENERAL REVIEW WITH HIM DURING PRESENCE HERE
OF EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS) AND HAD FOUND MY QUOTATION
OF WHAT ZHIVKOV HAD SAID TO BE ACCURATE. HE WOULD
FIRST CHECK TO SEE IF BULGARIA WAS CO-SPONSORING THE
RESOLUTION, THEN HE WOULD CONSULT WITH HIS SUPERIORS.
HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM. HE WOULD LET US KNOW.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SOFIA01872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760333-0382
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760997/aaaadezd.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 212814, 76 SOFIA 2044, 76 STATE 213909
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PFOR, BU, RQ, US, UN
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006